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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae>

**CHICO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FIREARMS CHARGE**

SACRAMENTO - United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced that defendant TOBIAS CHRISTOPHER VIGIL pled guilty yesterday, April 23, 2007, to a criminal Information charging him with a violation of 18 U.S.C. Section 924(c)(1)(A)(i) - possession of two firearms in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime (possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine) on June 16, 2006.

This case is the product of a joint investigation by the Chico Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Under the plea agreement, the United States and VIGIL agreed that VIGIL should receive an enhanced sentence of 96 months incarceration, which is 36 months more than the statutory minimum mandatory sentence of 60 months that ordinarily applies to such violations, because of two aggravating circumstances in the case. First, VIGIL created a dangerous risk to public safety when he tried to flee from police, driving his vehicle at approximately 80-90 miles per hour through Chico. He eventually crashed his car into the Tri-County Appliance building located at 1048 West 9<sup>th</sup> Street in Chico, which ruptured a natural gas main attached to the building, and caused a fire which destroyed the entire building. Second, one of the guns that VIGIL possessed was stolen. VIGIL will be sentenced on May 29, 2007, at 8:30 a.m.

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